5. Entertainment of non-Hindus and non caste Hindus in the Land Revenue Department with due regard to their numerical strength and other circumstances.

MR. EIPE ANTONY (*Member, Muvattupuzha taluk*) said that the Land Revenue Department was, so to speak, the back-bone of the public service. More than every other department it was this department which came into daily contact with the public. It was they who registered lands, made assessments and collected taxes. The important function of conducting the elections to the two representative institutions in the State, *viz.*, the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, was also performed by this department. In the matter of criminal jurisdiction, the highest magisterial powers were also exercised by the officers of this department.

Till recently the non-caste Hindu and non-Hindu communities of the State had no admission to this all-important department. As the result of their agitation, however, the Devaswoms were separated from the control of the Revenue Department and the appointments in the department were thrown open to all communities. But in spite of the separation, several communities prominent among them the Roman Catholics, had signally failed to get any representation worth the name in the department. Of the several Dewan Peishkars and Tahsildars in the department not one was a Roman Catholic. Of the four hundred and odd Proverthicars, only one was a Roman Catholic and he held only an acting post. Nor was there a single Sheristadar or Division Assistant appointed from among the Roman Catholics. Next to the Roman Catholics, came the Jacobite Syrians. In respect of numerical strength, educational advancement and material prosperity these two communities could compare favourably with any other community in the State. But neither of these communities was allowed any encouragement in the Revenue Department. In consequence of this, they were subjected to untold hardships almost daily.

Though the Land Revenue Department was under the control of an impartial and sympathetic European officer, corruption and communal partiality were rife among the subordinate officers of the department. An examination of the appointments made by the Dewan Peishkars and the Tahsildars since the Devaswom separation would prove to the hilt what nepotism was being practised by these officers. Government should devote their closest attention to this matter and issue stringent orders to give adequate representation to all non-Hindu and non-caste Hindu communities in the Land Revenue Department.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Antony, the representation you are making now is an old, old story, so old that all the members of this Assembly and every official member of the Legislative Council have heard it so often and in so many different places that it has become quite stale. Briefly your proposition is a purely mathematical one. This is how I would put it; where x represents the Revenue Department, you place x over a, b, c, d, e, f, g, where each letter represents a section of each community. Then you have to convert all the other

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letters, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f* and *g* in terms of *a* where *a* represents the biggest community in the State. If you carry on the series, you will get *x* over *a*, over 2 *a*, 3 *a*, 4 *a*, 5 *a*, 6 *a*, 7 *a*, 8 *a* 9 *a*, 10 *a*, 11 *a* and so on, if you total it up and divide all these you will get a very small fraction. I regret very much that that cannot be accepted because it is unworkable. You assume that every human being is an exact replica of every other human being in capacity, in education, in training, in character. That is not os. So long as human nature is a very variable quantity, I regret it is not possible to apply to it terms of strict mathematical exactitude.

6. Registry of lands.

MR. C. A. ANUMANTHAKUDI MIRA ROWTHER (*Member, Peermade taluk*) said that the *tarisu* lands in the Peermade taluk should, as far as possible, be registered at low rates of *taravila* for raising paddy and other indigenous crops. The system of registering huge blocks of thousand and two thousand acres to companies should not be encouraged. Lands might on the other hand be granted to individual applicants in blocks not exceeding 5 acres each.

In case the lands in the cardamom hills could not be assigned in the near future, all lands resumed by the Sirkar for default in payment of land tax and all other available lands should be thrown open for registry. They will, in that case, be an additional source of revenue to the Sirkar. The lands in the Peermade and Periyar pakuthies fit for cardamom cultivation should also be registered. Another suggestion made by the member was that the lands adjoining cardamom estates should be registered in the names of the estate owners for building houses, cooly lires, store-houses etc. The member urged in conclusion that the Urumpikara reserve in the Peruvanthanam pakuthi should be disafforested and thrown open to registry.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Anumantakudi Mira Rowther, the whole question of registration of cardamom lands is standing over for the time being. I will tell you the reason why. It has been the experience of Government that various people from outside Travancore came and obtained plots of cardamom land here and they defaulted in the payment of revenue and disappeared over the border. Government find it impossible to realise their dues. As you are aware, communications in the cardamom lands are now being improved and when the road system is completed, the land will be thrown open to registry on a systematic method so as to ensure that the people who cultivate these lands will actually settle on the lands and not be only occasional visitors to come and gather the crop when it is ready for the gathering.

In regard to the Urumpikara Reserve, I told the representative of the cardamom hills last year that I would go and inspect the place in company with the Conservator of Forests and the Land Revenue Commissioner and see whether the land can suitably and properly be thrown open for registry. I shall make an endeavour to inspect it before we meet again, and then we shall decide whether it could be thrown open for registry.

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